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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Note verbale dated 3 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to request that the proposed amendments to the revised draft Programme of Action A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1 (see annex) should be circulated as an official document of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

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Annex

[Original: English]

Drafting proposals submitted by Cuba on sections I, II and III, document A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1

NOTE. The proposed additions appear in **bold**. The proposed deletions appear in brackets and are underlined.

I. Preamble

New paragraph 2 bis:

Emphasizing our commitment to adequately dealing with socio-economic issues, including poverty and underdevelopment, which are closely linked to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Paragraph 4:

Recognizing also **that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has** devastating consequences on children, many of whom are victims of armed conflict or are forced to become child soldiers.

Paragraph 5:

Concerned also about the close link between terrorism, organized crime and the drug trade, on the one hand, and the [uncontrolled spread of] **illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons on the other, and stressing the importance of international efforts aimed at combating them,

Paragraph 8:

Bearing in mind the right to self-determination of all peoples, **in particular peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right,**

Paragraph 19:

Convinced of the need for **global commitment to** a comprehensive approach to promote, at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, the prevention, reduction and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security,

II. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Paragraph 9:

To assess applications for export authorizations according to strict national [or regional criteria] **laws, regulations and administrative procedure** that cover all categories of small arms and light weapons.

Paragraph 19:

To encourage States in the interests of awareness-raising and confidence-building, to carry out public destruction events **of illicit arms and light weapons collected by them**.

Paragraph 20:

To seriously consider the prohibition of unrestricted trade and **unrestricted** private ownership of small arms and light weapons specifically designed for military purposes.

Paragraph 23:

To encourage States, **where appropriate**, to undertake public awareness programmes to [reduce the demand for small arms and light weapons] **prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.**

Paragraph 26:

To strengthen and establish, where appropriate and as agreed by the States concerned, [regional or subregional moratoria on the transfer and manufacture of small arms and light weapons and/or] regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and to respect such [moratoria and/or] action programmes and cooperate with the countries concerned in the implementation thereof, including through technical assistance and other measures.

Paragraph 28:

To encourage regional and subregional action on **illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons in order to introduce or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

Paragraph 30:

Reformulate as follows:

"To develop, whenever possible and on a voluntary basis, appropriate confidence-building measures with a view to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons."

Paragraph 32:

Move this paragraph to section IV and reformulate it as follows:

"To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis on implementation of the Programme of Action, including national reports, at appropriate intervals."

Paragraph 35:

To [develop] **study the feasibility of developing** international arrangements and a legally binding instrument to enable the timely and reliable tracing of illicit lines of supply **of small arms and light weapons** by relevant authorities.

Paragraph 38

To encourage the relevant international and regional organizations and States to facilitate cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to **the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons, in view of the important role that civil society plays in efforts to raise awareness of and address the problems associated with **the illicit trade in** such weapons.

III. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

Paragraph 2:

States undertake to cooperate and to ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with **the illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons [issues], at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

Paragraph 5:

Relevant international and regional organizations **and States** should establish and/or build upon established [partnerships] **assistance and cooperation mechanisms** to share resources and information on the illicit [arms] trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

Paragraph 10:

International cooperation **and assistance** to examine **and to ensure the fullest possible exchange and transfer of information and** technologies, which are both affordable and accessible to all producers, and which would improve the tracing and detection of small arms and light weapons, should be encouraged.